

fields in which graze cattle, sheep and horses, all of which are rolling fat, as this is one of the many things in which the Somerset county farmer prides himself, having fat stock.

The large red barns are also an object of admiration to all strangers in the county. While the farmer whose sturdy strength and perseverance have won for him his comfortable home with all its surroundings, can sit by the huge fire during the chilling blasts of winter, with his cheerful wife and rosy cheeked children, happier by far than a king on his throne.

It has been my exceeding great pleasure to spend about two weeks among these kind-hearted people and I must say from the depths of my heart I have never been treated better since I started in the colporteur work six years ago. Nearly all the people are members of some church. The Brethren, Lutheran, Reformed and many other denominations are represented and have good church buildings.

In company with brother Eli Cober, a member of Maple Grove Brethren church, I called on Rev. John H. Knepper, pastor of the Berlin church, taking dinner with him and having a very pleasant social chat with this King's trumpeter, who was formerly pastor at Johnstown, Pa.

With kind regards to the many friends I have learned to know in Somerset county, I remain,

The Pilgrim Traveler Colporteur,
C. W. BEERBOWER.

Berlin, Pa.

Holsingerisms

Personal.—I have not improved perceptibly since my last writing, but am holding my own nicely. I continue to be hopeful that I may not yet have crossed the "dead line," as I feared I had a year ago. If I can recover so I can work, I'd be glad to live; but I'd much rather die than to exist in this busy world, with so much to do all around me, constantly in sight and touch, and yet not be able to lend a helping hand to any one. However it is not ours to decide how long we shall live, or in what way we shall die; a greater and wiser Power has such destinies to dispense.

COMMENTATORY

My attention has lately been called to several passages of scripture which I had not properly understood, and for that reason was not able to get much satisfaction from them. The first is,

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they that testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." John 5:39, 40. I have always used the first sentence as a command; but with that view there was no proper connection between the thoughts of the fortieth and forty-first verse. I lately secured a copy of the New Testament translated by Johan Penrich Reitz, one of our early Brethren, published in 1717, which makes the thoughts in both verses agree very nicely.

Let me give it in the original; "*Thr durchforshet die schriftten, weil ihr meynet darinnen ewiges leben zu haben; diselbe sinds auch die von mir zeugen; aber zu mir wolt ihr nicht kommen, dass ihr das leben haben moechtet.*" The Emphatic Diaglott renders it thus: "You search the scriptures, because you think by them to obtain aionian life; and they are those testifying of me; and yet you are not willing to come to me that you may obtain life." Both these renderings are in strict accord with the Greek text, in fact they are almost a word for word translation. The Revised Version is also substantially the same. I get so much more satisfaction from this reading than I did from the old.

The second passage is found in 1 Cor. 3:11-15. Inasmuch as everybody may not—indeed does not—have the Emphatic Diaglott, I'll quote from it, and the interested reader may compare with his own book.

"For no man can lay another foundation besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. And if, on this foundation, any one build up gold, silver, costly stones, wood hay, straw, the work of each will become manifest; for the day will show it, because it is revealed by fire, and so every one's work, whatsoever it is, the same fire will prove. If the work of any one remain which he built up, he will receive a recompense, if the work of any one shall be consumed, he will suffer loss; he himself, however, will be saved, but so as through a fire."

There is nothing special in this rendering, I simply give it for comparison; the special point I wish to emphasize, is the assertion in the 14th and 15th verses: that every one that has faith enough to build on the Christ, the sure foundation, no matter of what kind of material, will be saved.

I never saw in that light until within the last three months. I thought if a man's house would be destroyed, either by fire or flood, he would perish with his house; but this passage says he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire. But he will lose all he had built up for himself. Now, may we confidently hope that our religious friends, who accept Christ as the Savior of the world, and manifest their faith in him, by building on Him of the best material they have, will be saved?

This text evidently teaches that doctrine as plainly as words can state it. And I'm glad of it; I often felt deeply grieved that people persisted in building so foolishly; but it appears that some foolish people will also be saved. The Savior does not say what became of the foolish builders, but the inference is that they were houseless, or homeless. The foolish virgins were left outside and without light.

The scriptures evidently teach the doctrine of rewards and punishments—profit and loss. Here is a proof text: "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3. No loss to those builders. Their reward will

endure forever. Their building must be of gold and silver and precious stones. It pays after all to be wise builders. Some say: If all who will believe will be saved, where is the use in our being so particular and going to so much labor and expense? That is just the way lazy people talk in regard to the affairs of this life. What is the use in working so hard? The world owes us a living; it will be all the same a hundred years from now, all of which we know is a mistake. Comfort and wealth are the fruits of toil and industry; the world gives those a living who earn it;—those who will not simply exist and that is all they deserve. Neither will it be the same in the future, for they might be honored for ages to come, instead of forgotten or remembered in disgrace. It pays to be industrious. It is worth while to build well, and with good material while we are at it, whether for time or eternity. I never succeeded in getting much of a home in this world, "but I know that if my earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, I have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 1. There I have laid up my treasure, for these many years. It is both my life and property insurance.

H. R. H.

Berlin, Pa.

Warsaw, Ind.

Our work is moving along nicely. We have services twice each alternate Sunday. Services were well attended yesterday and last night the church was filled to overflowing. Brother Yoder was at his best and the result was one of the most spiritual meetings we had for many a day.

Friday evening Dec. 3, Brother McFaden will lecture in our church and will remain over Sunday and preach for us.

We are delighted with the EVANGELIST and are doing all we can to increase its circulation. Enclosed find \$3.25 and names and address for same.

Yours for the work,

ANNE E. SWITZER.

Ohio Mission Board

The Home Mission Board of Ohio is constituted as follows: President, A. D. Gnagge; secretary, C. E. Deffenbaugh, Glenford; treasurer, J. D. Finley, Glenford. The Board has completed its plans and now appeals to every member of the church in the state for immediate aid in the way of contributions. Pastors are urged to present the matter to their people, and lift collections for this work. Calls are coming to the Board for help, and if these calls are to be answered, you must help the Board answer them. Shall we extend the borders of Zion in this state? Then come to our relief at once. We are pleased to note the increased interest in the work in our state. Lately two ministers have been added to our list of efficient workers, Brethren Copp and Delaney, and already their influence is being felt. The Board asks that every member in the